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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,004	02/12/2001	Bassil I. Dahiyat	67461-5041US01	1900

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EXAMINER

BORIN, MICHAEL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/782,004		DAHIYAT ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Michael Borin		1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 36-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 36-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Amendment filed 04/06/07 is acknowledged.

All previously pending claims are canceled. Claims 36-41 are added. Claims 36-41 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 36 , step d) is unclear with regard what constitutes the library generated per the step. First, it is not clear what is the difference between the "primary" library, and the "secondary" library. The former, per step c) is comprised of sequence of the target protein, wherein residues at certain positions - variable positions – have been replaced with sets of alternative residues (generated as a result of applying force field calculations to select "optimized" residues). The latter, is a combination of residues in non-variable and variable positions, with multiple variants at variable positions generating plurality of sequences , i.e., a library. The distinction between the two is not

clear, thus the broad reading of the claims addresses generation of just one library of variant protein sequences, whether it is addressed as a "primary" or "secondary".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 103

3. Claims 36,37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lacroix et al (US 2002/0072864; filing date 08/31/1999).

The rejection is maintained for the reasons of record as applied to claims 12,13,33-35(now canceled).

In the response filed 04/06/07 applicant informs that a "request for continuing application" (?) accompanies the response. No such request has been filed.

Further, applicant states that the above indicated "request for continuing application" "amends the priority claim of the present application to" (end of sentence?). It is not clear how priority claim can be amended, as well it remains unclear what it was amended to.

4. Claims 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lacroix et al .

The rejection is maintained for the reasons of record as applied to claims 21-24 (now canceled) and in view of comments to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) above.

Prior art made of record

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Wang et al (Protein Engineering vol. 9 no. 6 pp. 479-484, 1996) teaches a method of creating a library of mutant variants of the target protein using

force field calculations. Based on protein main chain characteristics, the mean force field was constructed to evaluate the compatibility between an amino acid residue and its environment, from which a position-dependent protein mutant profile was constructed. At each position along a protein sequence, the native residue was replaced by the other 19 types of amino acid residues. The reference concludes that creating such libraries can be used as a guide in protein engineering and as an effective scoring matrix in protein sequence–structure alignment studies.

Conclusion.

6. No claims are allowed

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Borin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0713. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on (571) 272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Borin, Ph.D.

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Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Art Unit 1631

mlb